



Newsletter

November 2011

<http://neville residents association.weebly.com/>

Joint Chairs: Alan Chapman
Graham King

Treasurer: Daphne Wyatt

Minutes Secretary: Vicky Trenhaile

Editor: Carole Kirby

The Nevill Residents Association was formed just over ten years ago, to give a voice to all residents of the estate, whether tenants of Lewes District Council or private owners. If you have any concerns about your area, or ideas for improvement, please contact a member of the committee. Over the last six months the committee has been busy on our behalf, and here we report on the current issues.

1. Grit Bins Update

At a meeting earlier this year, the Association agreed to take up the offer to part fund the installation of grit bins. Since then, the County Council's Highways Department has inspected and agreed two locations, and we are currently awaiting a date for their installation ahead of the first cold weather this year. One will be sited at the junction of Mount Harry Road with Firlie Crescent, the other at the junction of Middle Way with North Way. The Association has also purchased twelve snow shovels, to help us keep the pavements clear, and is asking for volunteer custodians (one each). The custodians would not necessarily be asked to do the hard work, but would be a point of contact for their distribution. Please contact Alan Chapman for more information, or to offer help, on 01273 483501.

2. Table-Top Sale Trail: 10th July 2011

The weather was perfect for our second Table-Top Sale Trail. There were over fifty addresses on the Trail, and most participants felt it was a successful and very enjoyable afternoon. Unfortunately, some participants felt they were by-passed or ignored while waiting for visitors to work their way around the widespread list of addresses on the guide. Overall however, the general feeling was that it was worthwhile. The refreshments in the Church Hall provided a very welcome break for the visitors. £261.55 was raised for NRA funds.

3. Diamond Jubilee Garden Trail 2012

Unfortunately this year's garden trail, which would have been the tenth, was cancelled, as there were insufficient entries to make it worthwhile. Next year, Graham King, who organises the trail, hopes that all Nevill's gardening enthusiasts will have renewed their energy to support a special Diamond Jubilee Garden Trail. He will shortly be contacting householders, and other local organisations, to see whether there is sufficient interest in holding the trail on Sunday 15th July, 2012, between 2pm and 6pm. He hopes to produce a preliminary list of gardens before Christmas, at this stage without obligation. Final arrangements would then be

made in early 2012, thus allowing time to prepare for the big day. If you would like further details, or would be interested in taking part please contact Graham King on 01273 473779.

Graham says he has chosen the weekend of July 14th/15th 2012 as it happens to be the weekend after Wimbledon. In the past this has been the best time of the year weather wise, and is also just before the schools break up. If anybody sees a problem with this date, or has any other comments, please let him know.

4. Residents Association meeting: 5th Sept 2011

- **Landport Bottom Survey** - Dan Ross, the Community Ranger, gave a talk about the ongoing consultation on Landport Bottom (the fields west of the estate). This is jointly owned by Lewes District Council and Lewes Town Council, and is managed by the Landport Management Committee. Its aim is to restore the area to chalk downland by grazing sheep from Plumpton College. This prevents the development of woodland, encourages the return of skylarks, common local blue butterflies and other flora and fauna. The area is heavily used by local people for recreational pursuits.

Recently a conflict had arisen between horse riders and dog walkers, and there have been complaints from both groups. As a result, a survey on the recreational use of the area is being carried out. As part of this process, Dan Ross made a presentation to the meeting outlining the history and current management regime, and encouraged those attending to feedback their views. There were many comments from those at the meeting. If you have any views please make them known by going to the following website:

<http://www.lewes.gov.uk/council/landportbottomsurvey.asp> or contact him at: Lewes District Council, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes BN7 1AB.

▪ **Feedback on proposed extension of Lewes Parking Scheme**

At the meeting, Councillor Ian Eiloart reported on the reactions of residents to the proposed extension of the Lewes parking scheme into Nevill Estate. Three petitions had been started, which had been signed by 80% of householders. Virtually everyone affected wished to reject the proposed extension, as they do not have a problem with parking.

Alan Chapman stated that the Residents Association had also provided feedback on the proposed extension of the parking scheme. In a letter sent to Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe, who is collecting responses on this issue, it was suggested that traffic speeds were likely to increase with fewer parked cars, thus increasing the risk of accidents. It was also suggested that the scheme would lead to even more front gardens being converted to parking spaces, thus increasing the flood risk with more water draining onto roads. The quality of the streetscape would also suffer, in turn affecting local property values.

It is understood that a further round of consultation is expected before a final decision is made.

5. **Are you a tenant of Lewes District Council?**

There is currently a great deal of change in legislation concerning social housing and housing benefit. The Housing Consultative Committee and the Tenants' of Lewes District Council (TOLD) meetings are forums where tenants have the opportunity to influence these changes. Nevill Residents Association is entitled to have two representatives, preferably who are tenants, and who would be able to attend and vote at these meetings.

At the moment, Carolyn Blayney is the Association's only representative. She is not a tenant, which makes it difficult for her to appreciate any problems that may arise, and is also unable to raise any issues on behalf of tenants. Therefore, it is especially important that Nevill Residents Association either has representatives who are tenants, or that tenants give the committee some feedback. So, if you are interested, or have a comment, please contact one of the joint Chairs of the Association. Carolyn is happy to carry on attending, and will support anyone interested in being a representative. She can also transport them to meetings.

6. **Environmental Budget Bids**

Nevill Residents Association can submit an annual bid to the Housing Consultative Panel for a grant from the Environmental budget. This is for improvements to communal areas for the benefit of Lewes District Council tenants. For example, new garden furniture, notice boards, planting, lighting and benches. Recently the Association bid for a new path and handrails by the Nevill shops.

This has been approved subject to agreement with East Sussex County Council, the landowner.

Environmental Budget Bid 2012 – 13. If you have an idea for an improvement to the estate that we can bid for out of next year's budget, please contact a member of the NRA committee.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Since the year 2000, when several groups were first formed on Nevill Estate, the Association has promoted Neighbourhood Watch. In 2005, all the Lewes coordinators met to discuss ways to improve the various schemes in the area. This gathering later became 'The Lewes Town & Rural Neighbourhood Watch Association', whose aim is to support existing groups, and to enlist new groups in Lewes and the surrounding villages. Today, there are over 200 coordinators, with more than 5000 households involved.

If you would like more information, want to know if you can join an existing group on Nevill, or are interested in forming a new group, please contact Graham King on 01273 473779.

8. **Neighbourhood Police Panel: 5th Sept 2011**

The Neighbourhood Police Panel (NPP) meeting was held immediately before the Residents Association meeting. The local PCSOs reported on the actions taken in response to the concerns expressed by residents at the previous meeting. Three priorities were set for the next few months:

- Anti-social behaviour on Nevill Green would be monitored, as white paint had been daubed on the seats.
- They would keep an eye on vans and cars placed for sale on the lay-by outside the school entrance. Only one at a time is allowed.
- The police will remain as visible as possible on the estate.

The next NPP meeting will be on 16th January, 2012, at 7.00pm, in St Mary's Hall, Highdown Road. Please come along if you have any concerns you would like to discuss with our PCSOs. They welcome our observations and we can help them make a difference.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next Residents Association meeting is on Monday 16th January 2012 at 8pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road. Everyone is welcome.

Contact numbers:

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